27th November 1952]

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" Sir, I would like to know whether the Government propose to appoint an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Collector for the early distribution of these lands and whether the lands will be given free or auctioned?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is likely that a committee may be appointed, and upon the receipt of their report, the question will be decided."

Payment of the increased procurement price of paddy in Malabar.

* 187 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether Malabar agriculturists have been paid the increased procurement price of paddy ordered by the Government in 1952; and

(b) if not, what is the delay due to and what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) The subordinate officers in the district had received several thousands of applications and had to conduct careful and exhaustive verification of all the relevant accounts before preparing the consolidated statements due from them to the District Supply officers. Further in several cases, the bills, etc., received by the District Supply Officers had to be returned for want of the prescribed certificates and such other defects. Some delay was, therefore, unavoidable in the initial stages especially when the number of items to be verified in each area was very considerable running into thousands. However bills for an aggregate amount of Rs. 4,78,334-4-7 against a total sum of over Rs. 9,00,000 have already been sanctioned and steps have also been taken by the officers concerned to sanction bills in the remaining cases without delay. Disbursement to individual ryots has actually started in many places. Instructions have also been issued to complete the payments by 15th November 1952 at the latest."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, have the Government received information that it has been completed by the 15th November 1952 because we are now far ahead of this date?" 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, we will be receiving the report shortly."

The Pudukkottai Division General Hospital, Tiruchirappalli district.

* 188 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of sanctioned beds in (i) the Pudukkottai Division General Hospital (Tiruchirappalli district); (ii) The Ranee's Hospital of Pudukkottai division; and